

# NMCP COVID-19 Literature Report #21: Friday, 12 June 2020

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Disclaimer: I am not a medical professional. This document is current as of the date noted above. While I make every effort to find and summarize available data, things are changing rapidly, with new research and potentially conflicting literature published daily. Best practice and evidence are constantly shifting during this international public health crisis.

Reports are biweekly, planned for Tuesdays and Fridays.

## Statistics

*Global*      7,550,933 confirmed cases and 422,136 deaths in 188 countries/regions

*United States\**      top 5 states by cases (Virginia is ranked 12th)

	TOTAL	NY	NJ	CA	IL	MA
Confirmed Cases	2,026,073	380,892	165,816	143,513	130,603	104,667
Tested	21,933,301	2,729,005	1,030,793	2,597,647	1,123,051	683,088
Recovered	NA	68,211	28,376	NA	NA	NA
Deaths	113,883	30,580	12,443	4,934	6,185	7,492

\*see [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) for current US Population data; NA: not all data available

[JHU CSSE](https://csse.psu.edu/) as of 1100 EDT 12 June 2020

*Navy (Department of Defense)*

	TOTAL	MIL	CIV	DEP	CTR
Cases	560	359	88	55	58
Hospitalized	9	4	3	0	2
Recovered	2,917	2,289	360	150	118
Deaths	12	1	8	0	3
Cumulative*	3,489	2,649	456	205	179

\*cumulative total = active + recovered + deaths

[DOD](https://www.dod.dti.mil/coronavirus/) dated 11 June 2020

Virginia	Total	Chesapeake	Hampton	Newport News	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Suffolk	Virginia Beach
Cases	53,211	636	234	351	630	370	337	847
Hospitalized	5,445	99	37	41	74	56	52	107
Deaths	1,534	16	5	10	7	11	33	27

[VA DOH](https://www.vadoh.virginia.gov/covid-19/) as of 1100 EDT 12 June 2020

## **Summaries from Other Sources**

[ECRI](#): Optimal Timing for Performing Tracheotomy in Patients with Acute Respiratory Failure (10 June 2020)

"The optimal timing for performing tracheotomy in patients with acute respiratory disease, including COVID-19, cannot be determined from available evidence. We identified only 2 very-low-quality retrospective studies that reviewed cases of patients who had received earlier tracheotomy (i.e., within 7 to 10 days of intubation) and compared them with patients who had received later tracheotomy. The studies reported improved survival, shorter hospitalization, and reduced costs with earlier tracheotomy, but the studies are at high risk of bias and provide no data on the burden of tracheotomy reversal. Two evidence-based guidelines from India and France disagree on early tracheotomy's (within 4 to 7 days) effectiveness in critically ill patients. No evidence-based guidelines specific to COVID-19 are possible, but consensus guidance is mixed: 3 guidelines from France and Spain recommend early tracheotomy, while 15 guidelines from Asian, European, North America, and African medical societies, hospitals, and universities recommend delaying tracheotomy >14 days because of COVID-19 infection risks and the poor prognosis associated with mechanical ventilation in patients with COVID-19."

## **Selected Primary Literature**

*Recent—published in peer-reviewed journals within the last 7 days of report's date*

[JAMA Netw Open](#): Assessment of Hypokalemia and Clinical Characteristics in Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Wenzhou, China (11 June 2020)

"Findings: In this cohort study, hypokalemia was prevalent among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 and was associated with disease severity. It was challenging to correct hypokalemia because of the continuous renal potassium loss.

Meaning: The high prevalence of hypokalemia among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 suggests the presence of disordered rennin-angiotensin system activity, which is increased as a result of the reduced counteractivity of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, which is bound by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2."

[JAMA Netw Open](#): Temperature, Humidity, and Latitude Analysis to Estimate Potential Spread and Seasonality of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (11 June 2020)

"Findings: In this cohort study of 50 cities with and without coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), areas with substantial community transmission of COVID-19 had distribution roughly along the 30° N to 50° N latitude corridor with consistently similar weather patterns, consisting of mean temperatures of 5 to 11 °C combined with low specific and absolute humidity.

Meaning: In this study, the distribution of substantial community outbreaks of COVID-19 along restricted latitude, temperature, and humidity measurements were consistent with the behavior of a seasonal respiratory virus; with modeling, it may be possible to estimate areas at high risk of substantial community transmission of COVID-19."

[BMJ](#): Use of personal protective equipment against coronavirus disease 2019 by healthcare professionals in Wuhan, China: cross sectional study (10 June 2020)

- "Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection among healthcare professionals was very common in Wuhan and in other countries in the early phase of the outbreak
- Inappropriate personal protective equipment is believed to be a major factor in the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection among healthcare professionals
- The epidemiology and serological response of healthcare professionals with high exposure to SARS-CoV-2 is not known
- Appropriate personal protective equipment gives healthcare professionals a high level of protection against coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19)
- Despite a high risk of exposure, no signs of infection or serological response were detected in any of the study participants who were deployed to Wuhan to care for patients with covid-19"

[Clin Chem](#): Antibody profiles in mild and severe cases of COVID-19 (10 June 2020)

"In this study, we observed that patients with severe COVID-19 are more likely to mount robust antibody responses than those with mild cases. Our results agree with those reported by Zhou and colleagues (4). It is not known whether the enhanced antibody responses are associated with the immunopathology observed in severe COVID-19 cases (5). Owing to the limitation of our assays, the antibody profiles of IgG and IgA in the studied patients could not be determined. Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that there were several mild COVID-19 cases that failed to develop antibodies against the RBD-domain of the spike protein. These results might have implications for clinical diagnosis, serological surveillance and control policies (e.g. immunity passport) for COVID-19. It is not known whether these mild cases can develop antibodies against other epitopes of SARS-CoV-2. Further characterization of this group of mild cases is warranted."

[BMJ Open](#): Characteristics of registered clinical trials assessing treatments for COVID-19: a cross-sectional analysis (09 June 2020)

"We comprehensively assessed the WHO's clinical trials registry network and US clinical trials to identify early clinical trials examining COVID-19 treatments.

In addition to identifying investigational therapies, we also characterised the sponsorship, critical design elements and specified outcomes of each registered clinical trial.

We also report the pharmacological mechanisms and clinical uses for drugs under investigation.

Our analyses was limited to clinical trials of drugs or plasma, and many additional trials have been registered since our analysis was performed."

Clin Obesity: Impact of COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Orders on Weight-Related Behaviors Among Patients with Obesity (09 June 2020)

"How the impact of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are influencing physical, mental, and financial health among vulnerable populations, including those with obesity is unknown. The aim of the current study was to explore the health implications of COVID-19 among a sample of adults with obesity.

A retrospective medical chart review identified patients with obesity from an obesity medicine clinic and a bariatric surgery (MBS) practice. Patients completed an online survey from April 15, 2020 to May 31, 2020 to assess COVID-19 status and health behaviors during stay-at-home orders. Logistic regression models examined the impact of these orders on anxiety and depression by ethnic group....

Results here showed the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on patients with obesity regardless of infection status. These results can inform clinicians and healthcare professionals about effective strategies to minimize COVID-19 negative outcomes for this vulnerable population now and in post-COVID-19 recovery efforts."

Emerg Infect Dis: Effects of Proactive Social Distancing on COVID-19 Outbreaks in 58 Cities, China (09 June 2020)

"Using a combination of linear regression and best-subsets model selection (10), we found that the timing of the first intervention and the initiation of level 1 response significantly predicted the speed of containment across the 36 cities that deployed all 7 interventions ( $R^2 = 0.27$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) (Appendix Figure 1). A delay of 1 day in implementing the first intervention is expected to prolong an outbreak by 2.41 (95% CI 0.96–3.86) days. In contrast, the timing of the level 1 response was inversely related to the speed of containment. Level 1 responses were initiated by the central government across mainland China over the course of 1 week, starting with the hardest hit areas in and near Hubei Province on the first day and working outwards toward more distant cities. Thus, the day of level 1 initiation within this 1-week period is a likely indicator for the initial severity of an outbreak and the corresponding difficulty of containment."

JAMA: Emergency Department Patients in the Early Months of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic—What Have We Learned? (09 June 2020)

"The early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US demonstrate that ED care-seeking behavior is sensitive to an array of external factors. Before COVID-19, EDs performed a wide

range of functions in the US health care system. They were critical settings for triage, stabilization, and treatment of patients with time-sensitive conditions, main points of entry to hospital inpatient and intensive care units, and always accessible locations for the evaluation of acute symptoms of serious conditions, self-limited illnesses, and minor injuries. Longitudinal, quantitative studies of ED use will be needed to determine whether these trends are temporary or permanent. Qualitative studies will be needed to determine the extent to which changes in use are associated with the physical and social environment, policy responses, administrative decisions, and alterations in patient and health care professional reliance on the ED."

[MMWR](#): SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Serologic Responses from a Sample of U.S. Navy Service Members — USS Theodore Roosevelt, April 2020 (09 June 2020)

"Among a convenience sample of 382 young adult U.S. service members aboard an aircraft carrier experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak, 60% had reactive antibodies, and 59% of those also had neutralizing antibodies at the time of specimen collection. One fifth of infected participants reported no symptoms. Preventive measures, such as using face coverings and observing social distancing, reduced risk for infection.

Young, healthy adults with COVID-19 might have mild or no symptoms; therefore, symptom-based surveillance might not detect all infections. Use of face coverings and other preventive measures could mitigate transmission. The presence of neutralizing antibodies among the majority is a promising indicator of at least short-term immunity."

[BMJ](#): Assessment and management of adults with asthma during the covid-19 pandemic (08 June 2020)

"In patients with pre-existing asthma, a thorough history and structured review can help distinguish an asthma exacerbation from covid-19 and guide management

In those with symptoms of acute asthma, corticosteroids can and should be used if indicated and not withheld on the basis of suspected covid-19 as a trigger

Assessment can be carried out remotely, ideally via video, but have a low threshold for face-to-face assessment, according to local arrangements"

[BMJ](#): Characteristics and outcomes of pregnant women admitted to hospital with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in UK: national population based cohort study (08 June 2020)

- "Published evidence on transmission, incidence, and effect of SARS-CoV-2 infection in mothers and their babies remains limited mainly to reports of single cases or small case series
- Evidence from other similar viral illnesses suggest that pregnant women are at greater risk of severe maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality

- Cases of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection to the neonate have been reported, but how frequent this is on a population basis is unclear
- More than half of pregnant women admitted to hospital with SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy were from black or other ethnic minority groups
- Most women did not have severe illness, and most were admitted in the third trimester of pregnancy
- Transmission of infection to infants of infected mothers may occur but is uncommon"

[BMJ](#): Using socioeconomic factors to counter health disparities arising from the covid-19 pandemic (08 June 2020)

- "Early data suggest both the incidence and effect of covid-19 will be distributed unequally across those with different levels of material and social deprivation
- Strategies to contain covid-19 are greatly affecting key social determinants of health such as employment, social interaction, and family relationships
- People with complex needs, vulnerable populations, and marginalised groups are at increased risk from covid-19 and the health effects of containment strategies
- Timely, reliable data are needed to identify these individuals and ensure they are properly supported
- The socioeconomic disparities in health gradient provide an important framework to deepen understanding of, and mitigate, the health equity effects of covid-19"

[Intensive Care Med](#): Managing ICU surge during the COVID-19 crisis: rapid guidelines (08 June 2020)

"Given the rapidly changing nature of COVID-19, clinicians and policy makers require urgent review and summary of the literature, and synthesis of evidence-based guidelines to inform practice. The WHO advocates for rapid reviews in these circumstances. The purpose of this rapid guideline is to provide recommendations on the organizational management of intensive care units caring for patients with COVID-19 including: planning a crisis surge response; crisis surge response strategies; triage, supporting families, and staff."

[MMWR](#): First Reported Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Companion Animals — New York, March–April 2020 (08 June 2020)

"A small number of companion animals worldwide have been naturally infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Two domestic cats with respiratory illnesses lasting 8 and 10 days are the first reported companion animals with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the United States. Both cats were owned by persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and both cats fully recovered.

Human-to-animal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 can occasionally occur. Animals are not known to play a substantial role in spreading COVID-19, but persons with COVID-19 should

avoid contact with animals. Companion animals that test positive for SARS-CoV-2 should be monitored and separated from persons and other animals until they recover."

[Clin Infect Dis](#): Occurrence and Timing of Subsequent SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR Positivity Among Initially Negative Patients (07 June 2020)

"Using data for 20,912 patients from two large academic health systems, we analyzed the frequency of SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test-discordance among individuals initially testing negative by nasopharyngeal swab who were retested on clinical grounds within 7 days. The frequency of subsequent positivity within this window was 3.5% and similar across institutions."

*ICYMI—recent literature published earlier than 7 days ago, not previously covered*

[Int J Environ Res Public Health](#): COVID-19: Time for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis? (04 June 2020)

"From a healthcare perspective, infection due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) and the ensuing syndrome called COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) represents the biggest challenge the world has faced in several decades. Particularly worrisome are the high contagiousness of the virus and the saturation of hospitals' capacity due to overwhelming caseloads. Non-pharmaceutical interventions such as quarantine and inter-personal distancing are crucial to limiting the spread of the virus in the general population, but more tailored interventions may be needed at an individual level on a case-by-case basis. In this perspective, the most insidious situation is when an individual has contact with a contagious subject without adequate protection. If rapidly recognized afterwards, this occurrence may be promptly addressed through a post-exposure chemoprophylaxis (PEP) with antiviral drugs. This strategy has been implemented for other respiratory viruses (influenza above all) and was successfully used in South Korea among healthcare workers against the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronavirus, by providing people who were exposed to high-risk contacts with lopinavir-ritonavir plus ribavirin. Initial experiences with the use of hydroxychloroquine to prevent COVID-19 also seem promising. Post-exposure chemoprophylaxis might help mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic."

[Health Aff](#): Incarceration And Its Disseminations: COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons From Chicago's Cook County Jail (04 June 2020)

"Jails and prisons are major sites of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) infection. Many jurisdictions in the United States have therefore accelerated release of low-risk offenders. Early release, however, does not address how arrest and pre-trial detention practices may be contributing to disease spread. Using data from Cook County Jail, in Chicago, Illinois, one of the largest known nodes of SARS-CoV-2 spread, we analyze the relationship between jailing practices and community infections at the zip-code level. We find that jail cycling is a

significant predictor of SARS-CoV-2 infection, accounting for 55 percent of the variance in case rates across zip codes in Chicago and 37 percent in Illinois. By comparison, jail cycling far exceeds race, poverty, public transit utilization, and population density as a predictor of variance. The data suggest that cycling through Cook County Jail alone is associated with 15.7 percent of all documented novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Illinois and 15.9 percent in Chicago as of April 19, 2020. Our findings support arguments for reduced reliance on incarceration and for related justice reforms both as emergency measures during the present pandemic and as sustained structural changes vital for future pandemic preparedness and public health."

*Preprints—not yet peer-reviewed papers*

\*bioRxiv and \*medRxiv are preprint servers: "[T]hese are preliminary reports that have not been peer-reviewed. They should not be regarded as conclusive, guide clinical practice/health-related behavior, or be reported in news media as established information."

[medRxiv](#): Disproportionate COVID-19 Related Mortality Amongst African Americans in Four Southern States in the United States (12 June 2020)

" African American have been severely affected by COVID-19 noted with the rising mortality rates within the African American community. Health disparities, health inequities and issues with systemic health access are some of the pre-existing issues African American were subjected to within the southern states in the United States. Second, social distancing is a critical non-pharmacological intervention to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, social distancing was not practical and presented a challenge within the African American community, specifically, in the southern states.

This short communication queried the publicly available Department of Health statistics on COVID-19 related mortality and underlying health conditions in four southern states (Alabama [AL], Georgia [GA], Louisiana [LA] and Mississippi [MS]) with a high proportion of African American residents. Second, unacast COVID-19 toolkit was used to derive a social distancing (SD) grade for any given state, based on three different metrics: (i) percent change in average distance travelled (ii) percent change in non-essential visits and (iii) decrease in human encounters (compared to national baseline).

Across the four states, on average, as many as 54% of COVID-19 related deaths are in the African American community, although this minority group comprises only 32% of the population cumulatively. This article finds that all four southern states received a social distancing grade of F. COVID-19 have demonstrated that adverse outcomes are higher in individuals with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, or pre-existing pulmonary compromise.

Recognizing that there is a great need for African American representation or diversity in the health workforce would be able to better address the health disparities. In addition, the lack of diversity in the healthcare system causes the morbidity and mortality rates to increase in the African American communities because it is not able to address its primary obligations within the African American communities in the southern states during COVID-19 pandemic. These primary obligations are to restore, protect, improve health and to suppress health disparities and inequalities of COVID-19 within in the African American communities."

[bioRxiv](#): Detection dogs as a help in the detection of COVID-19 Can the dog alert on COVID-19 positive persons by sniffing axillary sweat samples? Proof-of-concept study (05 June 2020)

"The aim of this study is to evaluate if the sweat produced by COVID-19 persons (SARS-CoV-2 PCR positive) has a different odour for trained detection dogs than the sweat produced by non COVID-19 persons. The study was conducted on 3 sites, following the same protocol procedures, and involved a total of 18 dogs. A total of 198 armpits sweat samples were obtained from different hospitals. For each involved dog, the acquisition of the specific odour of COVID-19 sweat samples required from one to four hours, with an amount of positive samples sniffing ranging from four to ten. For this proof of concept, we kept 8 dogs of the initial group (explosive detection dogs and colon cancer detection dogs), who performed a total of 368 trials, and will include the other dogs in our future studies as their adaptation to samples scenting takes more time.... We conclude that there is a very high evidence that the armpits sweat odour of COVID-19+ persons is different, and that dogs can detect a person infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus."

### **Other Publications of Interest**

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. Veenema TG, Meyer D, Bell SA, Couig MP, Friese CR, Lavin R, Stanley J, Martin E, Montague M, Toner E, Schoch-Spana M, Cicero A.

Recommendations for Improving National Nurse Preparedness for Pandemic Response: Early Lessons from COVID-19 (posted 10 June 2020). Link:

<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/recommendations-for-improving-national-nurse-preparedness-for-pandemic-response--early-lessons-from-covid-19>

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. Adalja A. Expediting Development of Medical Countermeasures for Unknown Viral Threats: Proposal for a "Virus 201" Program in the United States (posted 08 June 2020). Link: <https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/expediting-development-of-medical-countermeasures-for-unknown-viral-threats>

## **Podcasts**

If you are looking for ways to keep up with coronavirus and related news in audio form, check out these podcasts:

- Coronavirus Daily (NPR): <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510355/coronavirusbuzz>
- Coronavirus Global Update (BBC): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xtv39>
- Coronavirus: Fact vs Fiction with Dr. Sanjay Gupta (CNN):  
<https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/corona-virus>
- Osterholm Update: COVID-19 (CIDRAP):  
<https://open.spotify.com/show/0ymIroFYVISAoq0uqECGx>
- America Dissected: Coronavirus (Crooked Media): <https://crooked.com/podcast-series/america-dissected/>
- EPIDEMIC with Dr. Celine Gounder and Ronald Klain (Just Human):  
<https://open.spotify.com/show/3DLvofLcx0o7adGqnfZvxL>
- Viral: Coronavirus (Three Uncanny Four): <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/viral-coronavirus/id1500978005>

## **In Brief**

Another milestone: The US surpasses 2 million coronavirus cases and at least 112,000 deaths; less than five months have passed since the first known case was reported on American soil ([WashPo](#)).

The VA isn't ready for the second wave of COVID-19, according to the acting head of VHA ([Military](#)).

FEMA internal documents suggest that PPE supplies will remain low and reuse will be required to meet need ([Roll Call](#)).

"A lack of health literacy is preventing people from having a good understanding of the novel coronavirus" ([Medpage](#)).

## *Vaccines*

Researchers think tuberculosis and polio vaccines could offer limited protection against the coronavirus by revving up the immune system ([WashPo](#)).

There are more than 135 vaccines under development for coronavirus. This tracker breaks down where they are in the process ([NYT](#)).

Moderna is finalizing plans to begin phase 3 testing of its coronavirus vaccine; the trial is expected to include 30,000 participants and begin in July ([Time](#)).

### *Treatments*

The first known COVID-19 patient, a woman in her 20s, double lung transplant has been reported at Northwestern ([NYT](#)).

At least a dozen treatments are being evaluated for treating the cytokine storm set off by SARS-CoV-2 infection ([NYT](#)).

Eli Lilly's antibody therapy could be ready as early as September ([Reuters](#)).

Gilead's remdesivir prevented lung disease in macaque monkeys infected with COVID-19 ([Reuters](#)).

### *Recovery*

The answer to why children avoid the worst effects of coronavirus infection might lie in their arteries ([Nature](#)).

Doctors aren't sure why some people have been sick with COVID-19 for more than 60 days ([WashPo](#)).

### *Ongoing Research*

Preliminary research (in its 'very early' stages) from 23AndMe suggests people with O blood type are less likely to test positive for coronavirus compared to others ([Newsweek](#)).

A new NIH-funded study will evaluate drugs prescribed to children with COVID-19 ([NIH](#)).

### *Getting Back to 'Normal'*

Many workers are probably not going back into the office anytime soon ([WashPo](#)).

With the alleviation of stay-at-home orders, some states are seeing spikes in coronavirus cases ([NPR](#)) and others are warning of possible surges to come ([NPR](#)).

Reopening hospitals and deciding who gets treated first may add to disparities and discrimination for patients ([Medpage](#)).

### *Mental Health and Wellness*

"A former COVID-19 triage tent outside a Manhattan hospital offers health care workers a chance to de-stress, using music and aromatherapy" ([NYT](#)).

People who struggle with disordered eating are encountering issues during COVID-mandated social isolation ([NYT](#)).

"Suicides and overdoses among young adults were already skyrocketing before the pandemic started. Now experts fear that the situation is going to get even worse" ([Atlantic](#)).

## References

### *Statistics*

DOD: Department of Defense, Navy. US Navy COVID-19 updates (accessed 28 April 2020). Link: <https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/03/15/u-s-navy-covid-19-updates/>

JHU CSSE: Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering. Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases. Link: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

VA DOH: Virginia Department of Health. COVID-19 in Virginia, updated daily. Link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

### *Summaries from Other Sources*

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### *Selected Primary Literature*

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